

## Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report – December 2008

The State Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> in Montpelier. Commissioner Designate Armando Vilaseca attended and spoke with the Board briefly on his activities since his appointment. He begins his duties as commissioner on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

### *From the Board*

Chair Tom James was present for the December 15<sup>th</sup> announcement by Governor Douglas of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation \$1 million grant, supported by the Gates Foundation, given to four states: Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island. See below for more information.

Kathy Larsen attended the November 20 Secondary Transformation Conference in Fairlee. She noted the variety of presentations and wealth of resources available to schools. Eighty percent of the state's high schools were represented at the conference. SBE member Brian Vachon also attended.

Brian Vachon reported on a meeting he attended with representatives from the state's construction industry and from Leahy, Welch, and Sanders' offices. The topic was the Obama administration's proposed economic stimulus package and the feasibility of implementing it quickly enough to have the desired impact on the economy. Cathy Hilgendorf, DOE School Construction Consultant, also attended.

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**Multi-state Effort to Prepare Students across New England for Success in the 21st Century Announced** – Governor Douglas and Acting Commissioner Bill Talbott announced the formation of the New England Secondary School Consortium, a groundbreaking regional partnership encompassing four states: Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, at a press conference at the VSAC Building in Winooski on Monday, December 15.

The Consortium is funded by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the largest philanthropy in New England focused exclusively on education. The Foundation has committed \$1

million to support the Consortium, which includes a \$500,000 partnership grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Coordinated by the Great Schools Partnership at the Mitchell Institute of Portland, Maine, the Consortium will initially include four states—Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont—and bring together their departments of education, districts, and high schools with independent school-support organizations and educational leaders from across New England in a far-reaching regional alliance. The group will share resources, talents, and expertise while exploring cost-saving efficiencies in pursuit of a common mission: ensure that by 2016 every public high school student in the four states will receive an education that will prepare them for college, career, and civic responsibility in the interconnected global community of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For more information contact Bill Romond, Deputy Commissioner for Transformation, at (802) 828-3813 or [bill.romond@state.vt.us](mailto:bill.romond@state.vt.us). Read the complete press release and fact sheet here: [http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdftdoc/dept/press\\_releases/08\\_1215\\_packet.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdftdoc/dept/press_releases/08_1215_packet.pdf).

### *From the Department*

**Maine Joins Vermont, Other States in NECAP Testing Partnership** – Maine has joined New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont as the fourth member of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), the first and only multi-state testing partnership formed in response to the federal No Child Left Behind Act. As the newest NECAP partner, Maine will join the other three member states in developing and administering the NECAP tests in reading, writing and mathematics to all students in grades 3 through 8. The tests are developed in common by all partner states and are aligned with the state standards (what all students should know and be able to do at each grade level) that all NECAP states have adopted. Contact: Michael Hock at (802) 828-3115 or [michael.hock@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.hock@state.vt.us).

**Early Education Initiative (EEI) Grant Application for 2009-2010** – The department is seeking Early Education Initiative (EEI) grant applications for the 2009-2010 academic year

from partnerships comprising early childhood providers, school districts and community early childhood education programs. Information in the Web link below describes the goals of EEI grants, the application process and the specific information all applications must include. NOTE: EEI grants are CONTINGENT UPON funding from the state Legislature. At this time, it is unknown what the amount of the appropriation for this grant program will be. Interested partnerships should complete and return the "Letter of Intent" form by 01/19/09; Applications are due 03/16/09. See [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_earlyed.html#eei\\_app](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_earlyed.html#eei_app). Contact: Shirley Rawson at (802) 828-5128 or [shirley.rawson@state.vt.us](mailto:shirley.rawson@state.vt.us).

### **Survey on Options for Vermont Professional Development Network Meetings (VPDN) –**

The Vermont Professional Development Network (VPDN) coordinators are seeking input from the field in order to plan cost-saving measures for their fall and spring network meetings, asking administrators and classroom educators to take a short survey about options the DOE might consider in its planning. VPDN meetings provide Vermont teachers opportunities to network and share ideas about critical issues/concepts in their content area; all meetings include opportunities for fostering teachers' understanding of Vermont's *Grade Expectations*, using statewide data to inform instructional practice and acquiring research-based approaches to improving student learning. Click on the link below to take the survey. [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=3IAJFy2hPCKaNYsiOPrldQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=3IAJFy2hPCKaNYsiOPrldQ_3d_3d) Contact: Marty Gephart at (802) 828-1462 or [marty.gephart@state.vt.us](mailto:marty.gephart@state.vt.us); Lindy Johnson at (802) 828-6562 or [lindy.johnson@state.vt.us](mailto:lindy.johnson@state.vt.us).

### **Grant Opportunities**

**Impacting Tobacco Prevention Education with Technology Grant** - In an effort to maximize funding dollars, a collaborative effort is being undertaken with State Tobacco and Federal Title IID resources to impact classroom instruction around Tobacco Prevention Education and Interactive Whiteboard technologies. This grant opportunity seeks applications that can provide a strong focus on the use of technology in the classroom around tobacco prevention, and is applicable to all grade levels, K-12. Funding will need to be

encumbered and committed by 6/30/09. Applications are due on 01/09/09. See [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_substance/tobacco\\_prevention.html#tobacco\\_tech](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_substance/tobacco_prevention.html#tobacco_tech) Contact: Peter Drescher at (802) 828-5149 or [peter.drescher@state.vt.us](mailto:peter.drescher@state.vt.us).

### **Vermont Community Climate Change Grant –**

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is awarding grants up to \$12,000 to non-profits, municipalities and public school districts to support projects that increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the use of clean renewable resources. For more information and an application, go to <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/air/Planning/docs/climatebrochure.pdf>. The deadline for applications is 01/15/09. Contact: Cathy Hilgendorf (802) 828-5402 or [cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us](mailto:cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us)

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**For additional information on Department of Education sponsored events beginning January 2009** visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>. The calendar is updated regularly.

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**For more information on the Vermont State Board of Education**, visit: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html>.

**To view approved minutes of SBE meetings:** <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#approved>.

**To view State Board of Education's Monthly Reports:** [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly\\_reports](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly_reports)

### **2009 State Board of Education Meeting**

**Dates:** January 20; February 17; March 17; April 14; May 19; June 16

